

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 33 and 35 have been amended. Claims 33 and 35-36 are pending in the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

Applicants have amended claims 33 and 35 to correct typographical errors.

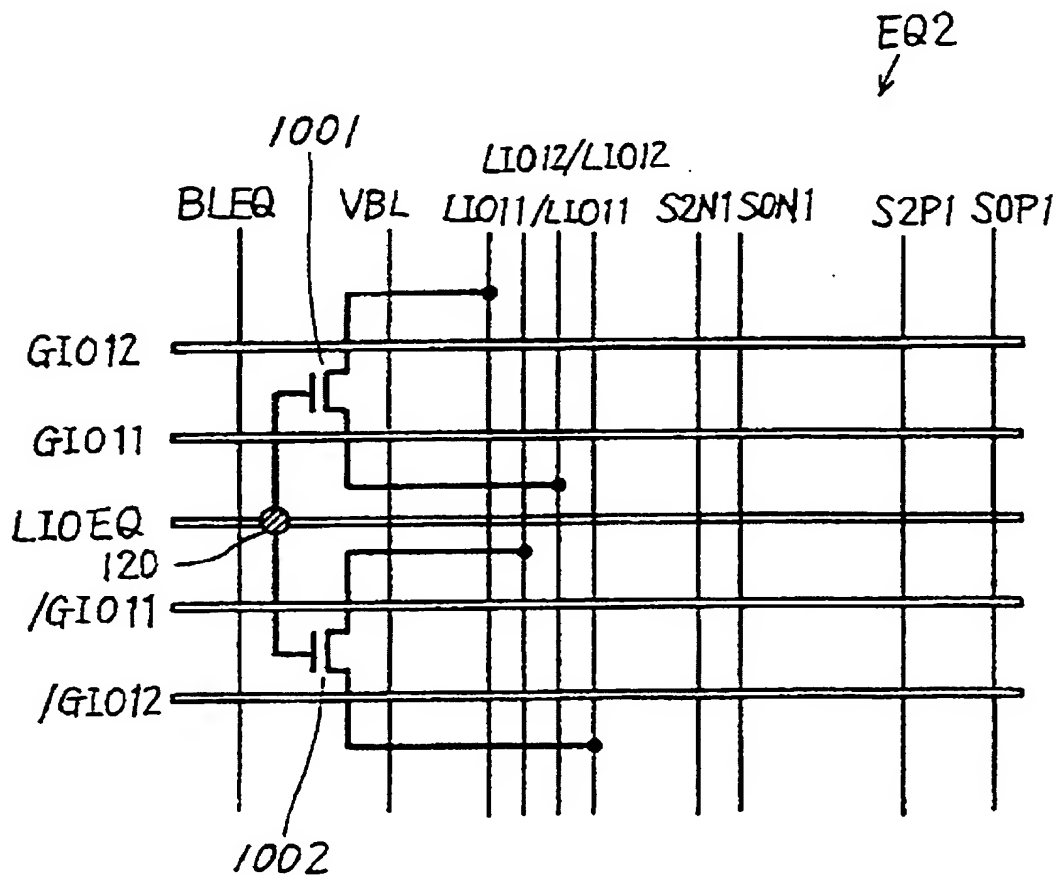
Claims 33 and 35-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamade et al. (US 5,650,975). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 33 recites a method of operating an integrated circuit memory device comprising the acts of “providing a layer of metalized traces including a plurality of I/O traces; [and] including within said layer of metalized traces a plurality of non-I/O traces, and disposing at least one non-I/O trace between every two I/O traces” (emphasis added). Claim 35 recites the acts of “providing among said layer of metallic traces a first plurality of I/O traces interspersed with a second plurality of non-I/O traces such that at least one non-I/O trace is disposed between every two said I/O traces” (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that Hamade et al. does not disclose these limitations.

To the contrary, Hamade et al. discloses in FIG. 10 a single local I/O line pair equalizing signal line LIOEQ, which is only located between I/O lines GIO11 and /GIO11. Hamade et al. FIG. 10 (reproduced below). There is no non-I/O trace between I/O lines GIO12 and GIO11, or between I/O lines /GIO11 and /GIO12. Furthermore, Local I/O line pairs LIO11, /LIO11, LIO12, /LIO12 are all adjacent to one another with no non-I/O traces located between them. Even in FIG. 2 of Hamade et al., there is no non-I/O trace between I/O lines GIO22 and GIO21, or between I/O lines /GIO31 and /GIO32, for example. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no

disclosure in Hamade et al. of at least one non-I/O trace between every two I/O traces as recited in claims 33 and 35. Since Hamade et al. does not disclose all the limitations of claims 33 and 35, claims 33 and 35 are not anticipated by Hamade et al. Claim 36 depends from claim 35 and is patentable at least for the reasons mentioned above. Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 33 and 35-36 be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

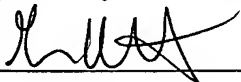
Hamade et al. FIG. 10



In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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